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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE	COI	ACP	TOG	TPE	MRO	TRI	PAGES
SCM	0	0	0	0	0	0	

CLASSIFICATION

CIA/OCI /WHIZWH 74D219

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR	DATE-TIME GROUP	CITE	MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER
		CIA/HSS	

SOURCE REF:

ROUTING

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2		5		8		11	
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ITEM NO: NH-5 DATE: 19 FEB 74

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SUBJECT: NORWAY PROBES US ARCTIC POLICY

NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND HAS REQUESTED US ADVICE PREPARATORY TO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIETS NEXT MONTH ON SECURITY MATTERS IN NORTH NORWAY AND THE ADJACENT BARENTS SEA. CLAIMING THAT THE SOVIETS FREQUENTLY MENTION SECURITY MATTERS, FRYDENLUND ASKED WHETHER THE US COULD HELP DISTINGUISH BETWEEN REAL CONCERN AND ARTIFICIAL ISSUES AIMED AT WEAKENING NORWEGIAN JURISDICTION IN THE AREA. HE ALSO ASKED FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR NEGOTIATING EXPERIENCES WITH THE SOVIETS. THE US EMBASSY HAS ASKED WASHINGTON FOR AN ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET SECURITY IMPERATIVES AROUND THE NORTH CAPE, US INTERESTS IN THE AREA, AND WASHINGTON'S POSITION REGARDING EXPLOITATION OF THE

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State Department review completed

RELEASING OFFICER

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CLASSIFICATION

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CONTENTINENTAL SHELF AROUND SVALBARD.

THE SOVIETS AND NORWEGIANS DISAGREEON THE METHODS FOR DELINEATING ADJACENT AREAS OF THE CONTENTINENTAL SHELF IN THE BARENTS SEA. THE NORWEGIANS FAVOR A MEDIAN LINE FORMULA AND THE SOVIETS PREFER A SECTOR ARRANGEMENT. OSLO'S PLAN WOULD PRESERVE A GREATER PORTION OF THE SHELF, INCLUDING ALL THE OCEAN BOTTOM AROUND THE SVALBARD ARCHIPELAGO, FOR NORWAY. THE SOVIET PLAN, IS DESIGNED TO PREVENT PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT NEAR ITS VAST NAVAL INSTALLATIONS ON THE KOLA PENINSULA AS WELL AS TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE SHELF AROUND THE SVALBARD ISLANDS.

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